

Application No. 10/601,828
 Amendment in response to Non-Final Office Action of 6/13/2008

Docket No.: 216683-114025

REMARKS

Claims 1, 17-19, 33-49 and 51-53 are currently pending with claims 2-16, 20-32, and 50 being previously cancelled and claims 33-35, 37-39, 41, 42, and 51-53 being previously withdrawn. Claims 1, 17-19, 36, 40 and 43-49 are rejected. In this paper, no claims have been amended or cancelled. Claims 54-67 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1, 17-19, 33-49 and 51-67 are now pending.

I. Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

A. Claims 1, 17-19, 40 and 43-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of U.S. 3,863,550 to Sarka et al. ("Sarka") in view of U.S. 2,885,933 to Phillips ("Phillips I."), U.S. 2,993,421 to Phillips ("Phillips II.") and U.S. 4,112,827 to Kang ("Kang"), or, in the alternative, Sarka in view of Phillips I., Phillips II., Kang and U.S. 6,543,131 to Beroz ("Beroz"). In view of the following remarks, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding Independent Claims 1, 40 and 47

Each of independent claims 1, 40 and 47 recite a "covering" (see, e.g., claims 1, 47) or "housing" (see, e.g., claim 40). The covering or housing is seen at '62' in Figures 2A and 2B of the originally-filed Drawings. For convenience, Applicant provides Figures 2A and 2B below.

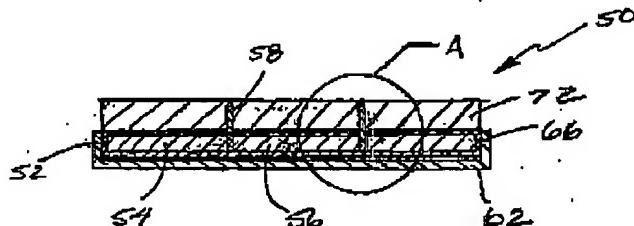


FIG. 2A

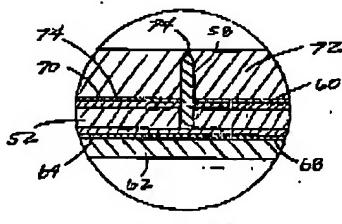


FIG. 2B
 (DETAIL A)

Application No. 10/601,828
 Amendment in response to Non-Final Office Action of 6/13/2008

Docket No.: 216683-114025

Applicant respectfully submits that Sarka discloses a die board at '25' that does not include, teach, suggest or otherwise disclose a "covering" or "housing" as recited by the claimed invention. Although the Examiner has pointed to "21, 22" in the rejections, Applicant respectfully points out that Sarka's written description describes "21, 22" as a molding fixture for making the die board '25', but is removed after the manufacturing step (see Sarka col. 4, lines 2-14):

4

posts may be, for example, of about a half inch in height. The spaced plates, with the posts fixed therebetween are then assembled in a molding fixture (FIG. 11) having a bottom 21 and side walls 22. The steel rules 15 and 16 are coated with mold release and then inserted firmly in the slots 12, and suitable plastic filler material 23 is injected through the holes 13 to fill the space between the plates and imbed the posts 20. The plastic is then cured to provide a semi-rigid laminated structure and the assembled die plate containing the steel rules is removed from the molding frame. The curing may be effected at ambient temperature conditions if desired.

(emphasis added).

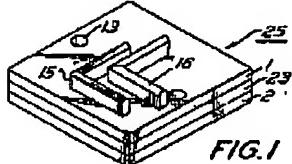


FIG. I

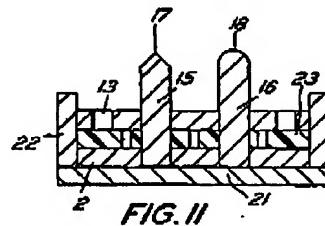


FIG. II

For convenience, Applicant reproduces Sarka's Figures 1 and 11 above.

Accordingly, each of independent claims 1, 40 and 47 are allowable over the cited prior art because "21, 22" are not a "covering" or "housing" but rather, a molding fixture. The molding fixture of Sarka is used during the manufacturing but is then not used with, or a part of, the die board 25. Thus, at least in view of the molding fixture, Sarka is deficient in teaching, suggesting or otherwise disclosing a "covering" or "housing" as recited by independent claims 1, 40 and 47. Additionally, one or more of Phillips I., Phillips II., Kang and Beroz do not make up for the deficiencies of Sarka. Withdrawal of the rejection to independent claims 1, 40 and 47 is hereby requested.

Application No. 10/601,828
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Docket No.: 216683-114025

Regarding dependent claims 1, 40 and 47, Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to M.P.E.P. §2143.03, 8th Ed., Rev. 6 (September, 2007), which states the following:

**2143.03 All Claim Limitations Must Be
*+>Considered< [R-6]**

"* "All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art." *In re Wilson*, 424 F.2d 1382, 1385, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (CCPA 1970). If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Claims 17-19 depend from independent claim 1. Claims 43-46 depend from independent claim 40. Claims 48-49 depend from independent claim 47. Therefore, claims 17-19, 43-46 and 48-49 are also non-obvious and therefore, allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection to claims 17-19, 43-46 and 48-49 is hereby requested.

B. Claims 32 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Sarka, Phillips I., Phillips II., Kang and Beroz. Applicant respectfully points out that claims 32 and 50 were cancelled.

C. Claim 36 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Sarka, Phillips I., Phillips II. and Kang, or, in the alternative, Sarka, Phillips I., Phillips II., Kang, Beroz and in further view of U.S. 6,658,978 to Johnson ("Johnson"). In view of the foregoing remarks, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 36 depends from independent claim 1. Thus, for at least the same reasons as claim 1, claim 36 is non-obvious. See M.P.E.P. §2143.03, 8th Ed., Rev. 6 (September, 2007). Withdrawal of the rejection to claim 36 is hereby requested.

II. New Claims

Applicant has added new claims 54-67. Support for newly-added claims 54-67 may be found at Figures 2A, 2B and paragraphs [0033] through [0035] of the originally-filed specification.

Application No. 10/601,828
Amendment in response to Non-Final Office Action of 6/13/2008

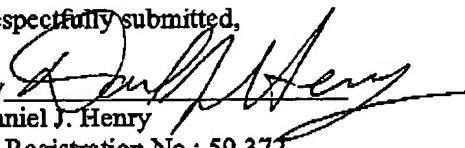
Docket No.: 216683-114025

Conclusion

Applicants believe no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-3145, under Order No. 216683-114025 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: September 15, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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